

Dear EPA,

NOV 08 2010

As a dairy, beef, and poultry farmer I am committed to environmental stewardship. Clean water and good soil are fundamental to our business. We have been doing our part and will continue to do so in order to help the Chesapeake Bay and local waters. Agricultural has met 52% of reduction goals for nitrogen, and 50% for phosphate all through a voluntary incentive based program in Virginia.

We will be willing partners in making environmental progress and have proven that with our actions time and time again. Even without cost share funding we practice conservation tillage and use proper nutrient management practices.

The Chesapeake Bay model, the basis for nutrient and sediment reductions required by EPA has been shown to have extensive flaws in the data it utilizes. You (EPA) have even acknowledged this fact. The model is currently throwing out actual ground truth data from Virginia because it does not meet the modeled land use data. This is unfair when the practices are meeting all requirements set forth by EPA.

Current funding estimates are just based upon the costs of installing the practices. They do not account for costs like, loss of productive land, replacing practices when weather damages occur, and fluctuations in markets, etc.

Due to long-term devastating economics conditions for agriculture, federal back-stops alone will be enough to drive farmers out of business. Individual businesses, farmers, and the State cannot meet this unfunded mandate from EPA without significant federal funding.

Instead of forcing states to regulate their way out of back-stops, we urge EPA to allow Virginia to implement its own plans for achieving clean water goals without costly, burdensome regulations.

As livestock producers, we struggle with extremely high feed prices, and we ask questions of, WHY? Is America running out of productive farmland? We have genetic based seeds that can produce 300 bushel corn and 100 bushel soybeans; with EPA's goals can American farmers achieve this and continue to feed America?

My main question is why farmers feel so pressured when there are so few of us versus residential home owner's who outnumber us and create such problem on their half acre as a farmer does on their 100's of acres.

Sincerely,

NOV 02 2010

Very Concerned Virginia Farmer